

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6475

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, IC

SUBJ: DRC MEETING NOVEMBER 25: MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION OF
ICELAND

1. DRC CHAIRMAN (HUMPHREYS), IN HIS OPENING REMARKS AT THE MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION OF ICELAND, NOTED THAT THOUGH ICELAND HAS NO ARMED FORCES, IT MAKES AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIANCE. HE SAID PART OF THAT CONTRIBUTION WAS THE BILATERAL BASING AGREEMENT BETWEEN ICELAND AND THE US, RENEWED LAST YEAR.

2. THE CHAIRMAN ENCOURAGED ICELAND TO SUBMIT A REPLY TO THE DPQ, SO THAT THE COUNTRY CHAPTER ON ICELAND COULD BE BASED ON A REPORT TO NATO RATHER THAN ON OTHER SOURCES AS IT WAS THIS YEAR. THE CHAIRMAN COMMENTED THAT ICELAND WAS FACED WITH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS THAT POINTED OUT AGAIN THE NEED FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION THROUGHOUT NATO. HE ALSO CALLED ATTENTION TO ICELAND'S NEED FOR A MORE DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY.

3. THE SACLANT REP (CAPT. MAYO) SUPPORTED THE CHAIRMAN'S
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COMMENTS ON ICELAND'S STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE.

4. THE ICELANDIC REP (HAFSTEIN) THANKED THE CHAIRMAN FOR HIS
COMMENTS AND SAID THAT THE ONLY QUESTION HE HAD BEEN ASKED LAST

YEAR WAS WHETHER THE 43 PER CENT INFLATION REPORTED IN THE COUNTRY CHAPTER WAS CORRECT, WHICH IT WAS. THIS YEAR, HE SAID, ICELAND HAD EXPERIENCED A SIMILAR INFLATION RATE FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, BUT THE INFLATION RATE HAD MODERATED DURING THE SECOND HALF. THE ICELANDIC REP AGREED WITH THE APPRAISAL MADE BY THE IS IN THE DRAFT COUNTRY CHAPTER (DRC/WP(75)2 ICELAND -- POUCHED).

5. THE US REP (BADER) MADE THE ONLY NATIONAL INTERVENTION AND SUPPORTED THE CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT CONCERNING THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION OF ICELAND TO THE ALLIANCE. BRUCE

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